

FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 293, Fall City, WA 98024

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www.fallcityhistorical.org



Hotel Fall City Left: in 1906, with horserace on River Street! Saloon is separate. Right: 1909, when the Hotel had been enlarged to merge with the Saloon.

Hotel Fall City owners remembered



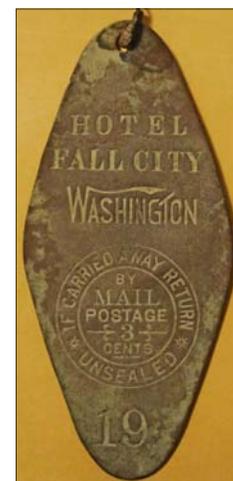
1909 Hotel Fall City ad
The Coast Magazine

In 1903 Andrew and Karen Ronnei and C. F. Nelson bought the two-story Taylor Hotel (on the corner currently occupied by El Caporal) and changed the name to Hotel Fall City. The Hotel is shown above, with a Saloon adjacent in 1906 and enlarged to merge with the Saloon in 1908. The key tag at right was found in Carnation in 2013 and donated to our collection.

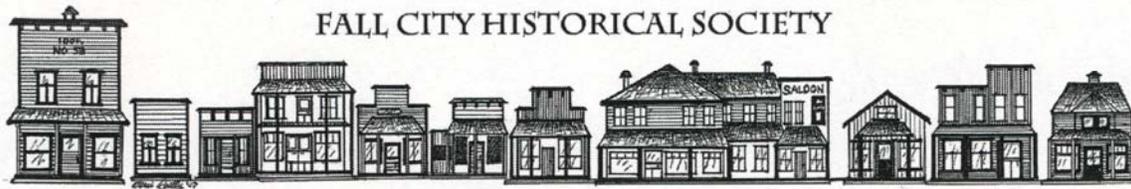
Hotel Fall City was a “happening” place, according to the snippets below from the *Issaquah Independent Newspaper*, 1908-1911:

(4/02/08) Ronnei and Nelson have added another pool table to their place of business, elevated chairs for players and spectators have been installed. (7/17/08)... building a concrete sidewalk in front of Hotel Fall City. This is decidedly the best improvement in town we have noticed. (7/24/08)... launched a boat on the Snoqualmie for the convenience and pleasure of themselves and guest during the summer season. (11/06/08)...with commendable enterprise, received and posted Western Union election returns at their saloon. Both the station agents and the local telephone operator were held at their posts until far into the night. The place was crowded, enthusiasm was spasmodic and business was excellent. (1/29/09)... are installing a hollow wire pressure system of gasoline lighting at Hotel Fall City. (2/26/09)... have begun the construction of a large addition to their hotel and saloon building. A water tower will also be built. (6/2/11) A. P. Ronnei has succeeded to the business of Ronnei & Nelson hotel and saloon. C. F. Nelson will remove from Fall City early in June.

The Ronneis both died in the influenza outbreak in 1919. In about 1921, Lars and Inga Johansen bought the hotel and ran it until it burned to the ground in 1925. The two-story building Lars built later that year is used to this day.



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HOTEL FALL CITY OWNERS REMEMBERED (continued from page 9)

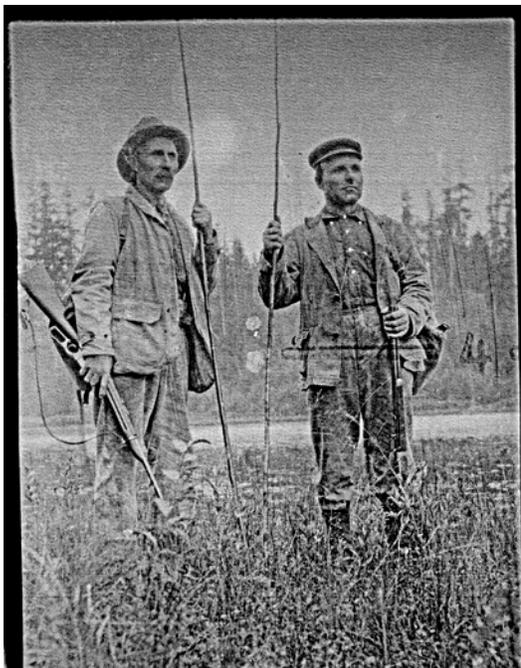


According to Jack Kelley in his *Walking Tour of Downtown Fall City*, the Ronneis built a house in 1905 at 33208 SE 44th Pl. After their deaths, it was home to Lud and Jennie Peterson until 1958, when it was moved to its current location at 4354 - 335th SE (shown at left in 2006).

The present owner, Suzanne Daymond, in the course of remodeling, has come across some items which may have belonged to Andrew and Karen Ronnei. Between the downstairs ceiling and the floorboards of the upstairs bedroom, several items were found: an unfinished letter, ini-

tially thought to be in Dutch, but found to be Norwegian, and two very old, dark negatives. We are grateful for the skills of Cristy Lake at Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum which allowed images to be rescued from these difficult negatives. In another area under the floorboards there was a bottle of Imperial Crown Muscatel...with a tight cork and about 3" of wine left!

Stay tuned for more research on whether these items belonged to the Ronneis or to the later tenants, Lud and Jennie Peterson. Our thanks to Suzanne Daymond for sharing these!



The photo at left is the larger and more interesting of the two photos. An older man and a younger one are shown near a river, both with rifles and fishing poles. The younger man wears a distinctive cap.

Below is a fragment of the letter...looks as if it was being written but was not sent.

